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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
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Thirty-fifth session
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Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 18. Economic Commission for Latin America
and the Caribbean

1. At its 20th meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 18, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Several delegations supported the programme of work and the proposed level of resources, while expressing concern at the decrease in the level of extrabudgetary resources. Some delegations were concerned about the limited resources assigned to some subprogrammes, in particular subprogramme 14, Regional integration and cooperation. Other delegations believed that ECLAC needed restructuring to ensure a more cost-effective and targeted work programme. More attention needed to be paid by the Commission to the changes in the economic environment of the region and to strengthening links with the private sector.



3. Many delegations considered that increased resources should have been proposed for the programme. Other delegations argued that no additional resources or responsibilities should be devolved to ECLAC until it could demonstrate that it was making efficient and effective use of existing resources.
4. A number of delegations requested an explanation about the parameters used for the recosting, which appeared to be too high in comparison with the level of recosting in other regional commissions.
5. A number of delegations welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General to reduce the rental cost for the premises of the office at Mexico City.
6. Several delegations stressed the need to ensure coordination of the ECLAC programme of work with other organizations within the United Nations system in order to avoid duplication.
7. Some delegations expressed concern regarding the timing of submission of ECLAC documentation in all the official languages of the Commission.
8. One delegation expressed concern at the inclusion of concepts such as governability, capacity for government, decentralization and local government (para. 18.28) without properly defining the role of government in this connection.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 18, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.
10. The Committee also recommended that, when implementing paragraph 18.28, the Secretariat develop those activities upon request by interested Governments on the basis of the interests and national priorities of Member States.
